

The Pipeline

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Graves County Accessibility Project Wins National Honor

By Gil Lawson, CHS Communications

A project headed by a social worker from the Commission on Children with Special Health Care Needs has won third place in a national competition to promote inclusion for people with disabilities.



Michelle Sither, third from left, worked on the award-winning project.

The \$1,500 prize went to Graves County for an accessibility survey of nearly 100 local businesses by 33 students at Graves County High School. The students surveyed and recommended changes to remove barriers to people with disabilities.

Michele Sither, a social worker with the commission's Paducah office, worked on the project along with the West Kentucky ADA Action Network. She works with young people birth to age 21 with chronic health care conditions.

The commission has 14 offices across the state and provides medical treatment to children with physically disabling conditions.

The National Organization on Disability sponsored the competition in which five cities and four counties across the nation received \$30,000 in prize money. United Parcel Service donated the award money. ❖

CFC is Going to the State Fair After a Long Absence

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

After several years' absence, the Cabinet for Families and Children is going back to the Kentucky State Fair.

Preliminary planning for a fair exhibit is just beginning. Before it proceeds further, the cabinet communications staff wants to hear from you about how we can best present our services to the 700,000 people who pass through the fair each summer.

One possible concept is making the exhibit a welcoming "Family Room," with a few cabinet programs highlighted in each corner. Wall portraits could show the success of adoptive families. A library or reading area could house a bookshelf with program information. And a home computer could allow electronic registration for CFC assistance.

But you might have better ideas.

What should be our exhibit's organizing theme? What cabinet services should it highlight? How can we attract visitors? How can we inform them in ways that will be more memorable and meaningful than simply handing them a leaflet? Can we use transportable technology to render valuable services on-site to fair visitors?

The 2000 Kentucky State Fair will be held Aug. 17-27 at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center in Louisville.

Do you know of creative, successful strategies that Cabinet offices in Kentucky communities have pursued to improve the quality of life for children and vulnerable adults? If you've worked at a state fair exhibit in the past, what tips can you pass on that might help us do a better job at the 2000 State Fair?

E-mail your ideas to Anya.Weber@mail.state.ky.us by Friday, March 10.

Planners will consider all submissions. ❖

New Grad Programs May Interest CFC and CHS Staff

The University of Kentucky and University of Louisville are offering several new graduate degree programs that might appeal to professionals in the Cabinet for Health Services and the Cabinet for Families and Children.

UK is scheduled to offer classes next fall leading to the master of public health and doctor of public health degrees. Both degree programs will emphasize the practice of public health and will be geared to the needs of professionals in health and social services.

At U of L, classes will begin July 1 in programs leading to public health degrees in biostatistics-decision science and epidemiology-clinical investigation science.

Final approval of UK's doctor of public health program is pending; the other new graduate programs in public health have already been approved.

A joint agreement signed last October calls for the two universities to eventually develop a common admissions policy and common coursework so that students will be able to complete some required coursework at either campus. It also anticipates extensive use of distance-learning technology.

Rebecca Flanagan, program director for UK's Kentucky School of Public Health, said UK's public health offerings might appeal to anyone involved in health policy development; candidates could come from backgrounds in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, business, social work or environmental science, among other professions.

Ruth Greenberg, director for academic programs at U of L's Health Sciences Center, said the biostatistics-decision science program will train students in the development of health-care guidelines, while the epidemiology-clinical investigation sciences program is intended for physicians, dentists, nurses and public health personnel who want to develop their research skills.

For more information on UK's program, call (606) 323-8915, e-mail kysph@pop.uky.edu or check the Web site at www.uky.edu/kysph. For information on U of L's program in biostatistics-decision science, call Troy Abell or Stephan Looney at (502) 852-2797. For information on applying for U of L's epidemiology-clinical investigation sciences program, call Carlton Hornung, (502) 852-6263. ❖

Second CFC Satellite Office to Open in Pike County

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

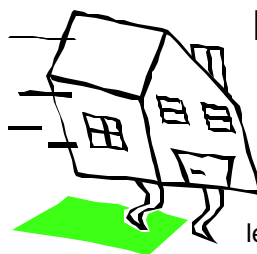
Pike County residents will soon have greater access to family services. The county's second satellite office of the Cabinet for Families and Children is opening there March 16, at 36 Mingo St. in Phelps.

About 900 families already are served in Phelps and nearby communities, and the number is expected to grow.

The state's biggest county, Pike is so spread out that some citizens have to drive up to two hours on mountainous, rural roads to CFC's Department for Community Based Services office in Pikeville. The Phelps office will improve access to services for families in the county's easternmost reaches.

Pike County's first satellite office opened in the Belfry courthouse in December 1998. Both the Belfry and Phelps offices were established as part of CFC's Vision 2000 initiative.

For information about the Phelps office's open house on March 9, call the Pikeville CFC office at (606) 433-7580 or (606) 433-7760. ❖



Move Update

Preliminary work on the CFC/CHS Floor Swap continues apace.

Designers are still pursuing their assigned tasks and should be left to their duties without interruption.

The two cabinets have assigned differing priorities to the move. Within CFC, the floor swap will not be allowed to interfere with moves and renovations in field offices. CHS has placed a cabinet-wide moratorium on moves other than the one in the CHR Building.

Please direct any comments, suggestions or questions to lisa.aug@mail.state.ky.us. ❖

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us